



**Notes for internal group discussion only. Do not distribute
NWCG Smoke Committee September Activity Update**



Membership Issues

- Welcome Dave Mueller – BLM (temporarily), BLM rep for Fuels Management Committee, Fuels Program Lead at NIFC. BLM in hiring process a position that will have smoke written into it, so that person will be the permanent representative here.
- Vacancies: Vice SmoC Chair, Training Subcommittee Co-Chair. Carol Blocksome in KS, and Anne Hobbs in CA have expressed interest.
- BLM and FWS Fire Programs have openings.

Outreach and Messaging

- Status of Activity Updates – Diana will send July to Pete and then will be working on August.
- Web Site activity – New NWCG website was down. Hopeful it will become more reliable.

Ozone NAAQS White Paper – SmoC Website – EPA will post final standard by 10/1.

- Tammy is working to find updates to the ozone maps.
- New ozone map will be posted on the SmoC FRAMES site.

Wildfire and Smoke Activity, Cache Status

- 30,000 acres burned in Rough Fire creating a lot of smoke in San Joaquin & Central Valley.
- Fire in Yosemite is still burning; another fire in Amador County (Butte fire) just ignited.
- Canyon Creek is the only source of smoke in OR, and some smoke from CA, but many other fires have subsided.
- A couple ARAs are available and there are monitoring units available in the cache.
- No rain forecasts for central/southern Sierras; chance of precipitation next week in the NW US.
- 1km BlueSky Grids are over CA and OR, 6z is over eastern WA and western ID, 12z is over North Central WA, and 18z is over Rough Fire in S. Central CA.
- Support for monitoring cache – position outreach for Region 2 FS, 4 year team position.

NWCG Business

- End of Year Project Reporting due 11/2/15 and has been submitted.
- Product revision Schedule:
 - Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (Red Book) (PMS 210), January 2014 – Bill Jackson is reviewing. Elaine will find out if SmoC can still comment.
 - Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS 461), January 2014 – NWCG is not looking at this currently, but they are looking at the Interagency standards for fire and aviation ops.
 - Should re-approach the smoke content – get insight from new members.
 - Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, January 2015.
 - Wildland fire qualification guide will be released in the next week.
- Mike Zupco met with NWCG and voiced the priority of smoke in fire management.
- Chair meeting – first week of February (2-4) in Boise, may be inviting subcommittee chairs.

Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation

- Pete has a poster abstract & will talk on smoke management regulatory issues. Josh has a poster on training, Susan has an abstract, & Cindy has an abstract on Smoke Science plan updates.
- IAWF Fire Behavior & Fuels Conference (April 2016) – Should submit Poster on ARA deployment.
- IAWF International Smoke Symposium 2 (December 2016) – Virtual hosting should be less than the original 50K price tag, so more feasible. Possible conflict with AGU meeting, usually a day before the Christmas holiday, so consider the first full week in December.



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- Let Mike Zupco know if there is interest in getting undersecretary or assistant secretary as a speaker on smoke issues.
- Others...AGU? Canada Wildfire...

EPA- National Emission Inventory for Fire 2014: Deadlines, activity data and missing state issues.

- Deadline for information to be included is the 30th of September.
- Effort to include data from the Fire Emission Tracking (WRAP), over the next couple of weeks.
- There is very little data from OK, TX, KS, NE, and others in the central US. PLEASE get in touch with Tesh Roa, Dan Smith, Pete, etc.
 - Diana will follow up with contacts on Midwest emissions data for the 2014 NEI.
 - Claudia will insert an agenda item to solicit data for the NEI – 2014 NEI for fire (Rx, Ag, wild) activity data is needed.

Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Status, Review, revise, and plans

- Lessons/case studies on wildfire smoke impacts from this season: potentially using this course as supporting material for PIOs communications section.
- PIO on Colville NF is willing to review, comment, and provide outreach on a national level.

Subcommittee Report-outs:

Smoke Technical Topics

- Smoke Management Guide on hold due to wildfire activity. Wrapping up by end of December.
- Emission factor work will need to continue in 2016. There is new research and significant challenges in comprehensively addressing emission factors.

Smoke Training

- Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Target audience includes state and fed FLMs. Finalize revision topics by end of October and revise by the end of the year. Include pre-course for S580 and S590, and PIOs. Document changes made (includes personnel exposure, transportation issue material, among other revisions – status, review, revise & plans.
- Personnel Exposure Guidebook – Wrapping up in the next month. Audience is personnel who want more information following the WFSTAR course or those in operations positions who face smoke exposure during work.
- Planning to have the Transportation Safety Guide version 2 out by the end of the year.

Smoke Managers

- Next meeting: Shawn Ferreria /San Joaquin air pollution control dist and Rick Gillam/EPA on call.
- Ron Sherron and AZDEQ will present next year over a webinar.
- Will discuss messaging on smoke impacts and schools/public activities – Need to develop a baseline message for the smoke guide for public health officials. Then can be adapted by local communities and provides a common base to work from.

Round Robin Topics

- Susan will present on the 2015 wildfire season at a meteorology conference in Sacramento.
- Pete has been visiting Region 5 and 6 and working with wildland fire staff. Probably over 70 emergency air monitors deployed over this season in CA, OR, WA, ID. Add them to the existing state and regulator monitors will have an unprecedented dataset outlining the level of smoke impact and the transport of smoke
- Smoke monitoring was being used not just to show where the problem areas are, but also where the clean areas are.



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- No fire camps have been moved as a result of smoke. More ICs are aware of the smoke issue.
- Mixing Height – Gary – paper approved & will be published in Journal of Applied Meteorology.
- NWS/mixing height committee possibly reviewing this paper.
 - Need to hold briefing. Agenda item for fire weather subcommittee meeting in Boise.
 - Remain in contact with the Weather Service – make a presentation to SmoC.
 - Mark will talk to fire weather subcommittee & tell Robin and Larry about webinar.
 - Gary will work on getting a webinar to the committee on this topic Dec 3.
- NFDRS Status – Gary: Technical questions on moisture of extinction generated across the US.
- RX 301 and 341 to be updated in 2016. Can help the smoke management unit of Rx341 and 301 burn plan implementation could be handled in the smoke management category.

DRAFT